Date: Wed, 14 Jul 93 10:39:31 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #852
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 14 Jul 93 Volume 93 : Issue 852

Today's Topics:

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

Date: 14 Jul 93 17:13:59 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Baycom
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I need a version of Baycom that will run correctly in a DOS box
under Windows. Any ideas? thanks

73 Mike N6MZ mikemr@microsoft.com

Date: 14 Jul 93 17:23:41 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Communities that unduly restrict Amateur Radio operations

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1713@arrl.org> jhennessee@arrl.org (John Hennessee) writes:
>
>
>One of the many membership services ARRL HQ offers is the "PRB-1
>package." HQ is only able to send out this large 150 page package to
>amateurs who have specific zoning problems since it is so expensive to
>print and mail.

Hacker@Virginia.EDU (Jon Gefaell) Responds:

>Why not make this package available via mail server, FTP sites, and such?
>I'll deal with the cost of printing, if necessary, and mailing is moot.

I have received the PRB-1 package, and most of it is made up of reprints
    from court records and printed articles. the package is not machine
    readable unless the images of the documents were scanned. I think the
    ARRL is doing fine on the distribution end of this. They just don't
    want to be suddenly inundated with requests from people who do not
    really *need* the package. I must admit I don't have a city ordinance
    issue, but I wanted the back-up in case my homeowner's association ever
    notices the two outside antennas I have up.

    I did notice that several of the posts asking for better access to the
    package also note they are not ARRL members. Isn't it nice enough
    that ARRL makes the package available to all hams, member or not.

    My .02 worth.

Wm. A. Kirsanoff   Internet: WAKIRSAN@ananov.remnet.ab.com
Rockwell International   Ham: KD6MCI
(714) 762-2872
   Alternate Internet: william_a._kirsanoff@ccmail.anatcp.rockwell.com
    Another Alternate Internet: kirsanwa@catipult.anatcp.rockwell.com
----
Who are you? *   I am number 2. *   Who is number 1? * You are number 6.

Date: 14 Jul 93 17:59:42 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Communities that unduly restrict Amateur Radio operations
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In an article, yee@network.UCSD.EDU (Conway Yee) writes:

> The problem is that for the most part, the general public couldn't care
> less if someone else's rights are violated. They are only concerned
> if their own is violated (as I demonstrated recently on this forum in
> my last post about autopatches in rec.radio.amateur.misc).

As I recall, no one was *violating your rights*. You did not want to comply with the admission policy of providing the repeater club with a copy of your license. They declined your application for membership. You have a right to decline giving them a copy of your license, but then, as a private organization, they have a right to set reasonable admission requirements, and decline applications from those who do not meet the requirements. Since you are asking to use their transmitting equipment, the request for a copy of your license for their member files is entirely reasonable. You, on the other hand, were not reasonable, you were paranoid, as you yourself earlier admitted.

My homeowner's association does not permit outside antennas. My *rights* are not violated by this. The restriction is in my CC and R's that I agreed to when buying my home. Of course, I would like to change the restriction, and there is some movement. Mostly, our cable service is so bad that the homeowners have pushed through a policy change allowing some satellite dishes. The association has published statements that they will not enforce violations of the archetectual guidelines that are not visible from the street. These small steps move the association into a position where forbidding my ham antennas becomes more difficult for them.

I have a long wire stretched around
the eves of my house, and a Ringo (tm) on a rear roof section below the overall roof line of the house. I am violating the letter of my civil agreement with the association, but not the implied agreement set up by their enforcement policy. By pushing the envelope, the restriction will eventually change. There are other *stealth antenna* methodologies available, and, of course, attics.

My point is this, we routinely negotiate the area where our rights and the rights of others conflict. If you choose to assert a right (not providing a copy of your license to a radio club/installing an outside antenna), accept the consequences (no membership/buying a home elsewhere). You may find that by taking a tactical loss, (give them the copy/accept the restriction) you can be in a position to change the offending policy.

[Stuff deleted, I was long winded enough]

>As far as the general public is concerned, hams are a source
>of TVI and that is about all. The theoretical possibility that hams

>could be useful in an emergency situation is not relevent to the
>public.

And this is a perception we can and should change through our public assistance efforts and more/better PR.

My .02 worth (end soapbox mode).

73

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Who are you? * I am number 2. * Who is number 1? * You are number 6.

Date: 13 Jul 93 08:34:53 EDT
From: pacbell.com!iggy.GW.Vitalink.COM!wetware!spunky.RedBrick.COM!psinntp!psinntp!pbs.org!jernandez@ames.arpa
Subject: Digital FM through TV Cable, How?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jul8.152406.1@ducvax.auburn.edu>, anderjh@ducvax.auburn.edu writes:
> There is a service in Birmingham, AL called DMX Digital Music Express which
> is delivered through the Cable for Cable TV. It has about 40 stations
> which can be tuned in on an FM Stereo. Are they really sending digital
> signals through cable and how are they doing this?
> Curious Jamie ANDERJH@DUCVAX.AUBURN.EDU

The signals are true digital signals. The modulation format is QPSK with 5 carriers multiplexed into the 6 MHz TV channel. They are NOT FM. It is refered to as having "quality" comparable to FM stereo. Scientific Atlanta is the manufacturer of the system. It is based on their SEDAT digital audio compression system which is used by the CBS and ABC radio networks.

John
KA2YAP

Date: 14 Jul 93 15:42:17 GMT

From: ogicse!uwm.edu!linac!att!cbnewsm!jeffj@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: machine-generated CW
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9307132018.AA06157@opus.xyplex.com> sasminkey@eng.xyplex.com writes:
>WA7LDV recently said...
>
>>Without any kind of recognizable character such as swing, syncopation, or
>>other recognizable fist it seems like pretty sterile art to me. Kinda
>>like a painting of a polar bear in a snow storm.

I work the same hams so rarely on the bands that I never get the chance
to recognize someone's elses fist.

>I can't tell the difference between properly sent Morse code coming from
>an iambic paddle and keyer, computer, straight key, or bug. If it's properly
>sent, I don't expect to be able to tell the difference! To me, though,
>the iambic paddle and the electronic keyer are truly the greatest invention
>in Morse code history. That combination gives a regular person a fine set
>of tools to enable him to send beautiful proper Morse code, yet those same
>tools allow the person to maintain that mechanical, manual connection to the
>code itself. Of course, a computer allows one to send perfect code, but
>completely removes the person from Morse code itself; he might as well be
>sending RTTY or packet or email on a computer network.

There is a lot of truth to the above statement because I use a CW keyboard
and often have thought the whole process is to mechanical at times.
When I work other hams that use a computer to copy they always comment
on how easy it is for them to copy my CW while I am writing their code
down at a rapid pace. I am getting ready to switch over to keyer as
it seems that I am losing something by just typing out what I want to
send. Kinda makes it sterile in a way. I liked a straight key but since
I got tendonitis in my arm and wrist I can't use it for any length of
time. Seems that CW consists of the involvement of actually manually
sending the code and copying the code in one's head or on paper. I
think this is what hooks us CW types and causes us to so rabidly defend
CW as a means of communication. 73!

Jeff
--

 Jeff Jones AB6MB | OPPOSE THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT!
 jeffj@seeker.mystic.com | Canada/USA Free Trade cost Canada 400,000 jobs.
 Infolinc BBS 415-778-5929 | Want to guess how many we'll lose to Mexico?

Date: 14 Jul 93 14:51:27 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu

Subject: More SWR
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Subject: SWR

Jeff,

>The length of the shortened G5RV is 51 feet with 17 feet of ladder
>line to match it. I tried doing some calculations as to why 20 and 49
>load up so well. What I cam up with was that the 51 foot G5RV was a
>3/4 wave 20 meter antenna and a 3/8 wave 40 meter antenna.

OK! Well, I'm glad I realized something was amiss, and I was out of sync. Most of what I said applies I think, altho' some inaccuracies crept in and I caught it when I re-read your message and then what I had written. I said, "somethun's out-a-whack here". Then it hit me when I had said "2 wavelengths long on 10", which your antenna comes close to. The "real" G5RV would be actually 3+, and thats when I realized we might be talking about different antennas!

>Strangely
>enough the antenna is 1 1/2 waves on 10 meters but doesn't seem to work

Exactly! Notice that on the other bands (20 & 40) the antenna is NOT anywhere close to a 1/2 wave (or odd multiple thereof)! On 10, your version is an odd multiple of 1/2 waves, fed in the center. The feedpoint impedance will be quite low compared to the other bands, so I suspect that quite a bit of the power is being dissipated in the Q-section, and not radiated.

What you experience on 10 is similar to what happens with the traditional G5RV when you attempt to use it on 30 meters. The Q-section length is all wrong, and renders the antenna useless for that frequency range even tho' the antenna SHOULD work well, as it is actually two half-waves fed in the center. As such, it should have some gain over a dipole. But, due to the effects of the Q-section, it is essentially useless on that band. Notice that no commercially available G5RV claims to work on 30 meters! In fact, several warn against attempts to use it there! And for good reason.

Attempts to use it there, for even a very short low powered transmission could ruin the coax feeding the antenna, especially if its of the mini-8 or RG-8X variety. Which it is in most cases, by the way. The reason is the very low insulation value of the 8X's di-electric material (600V), can cause an arc-thru at high voltage points along the line. Once punctured, the coax is a goner. The reason I'm telling you this is that I did it to myself! The real problem with this is that it happens very, very quickly (at the speed of light so to speak!), and it may be months later after poor performance before you realize, or stumble onto it (which is

what I did!). Hi!

Who would ever suspect it, right!? But, that IS how MURPHY works!
He lurks around for awhile,,,,,then ZAP!!!

What could be a more insidious thing to do to a guy, I ask?

>all that well. This discussion got me to wondering what makes a antenna
>a good radiator outside of the height and ground effectsi? If height and

In a word, efficency! Some believe in the concept of the "coupling"
to the ionosphere, but I never have understood that or believed it for
that matter! There was a time when most amateur's believed that the
radiation resistance of the antenna was significant in the sense that
there was some magical number that worked better than any other. What
this relates to tho', I believe, today we would refer to as efficiency.
That IS achieved in different ways, on different antennas, but basically
it means effectively coupling power to the radiator, with as little loss
as possible in the devices doing the "coupling".

There are many others however, that are equally important. Such as, what
do you want the antenna to do for you? Work DX? Talk to the boys on 75?
Have a shot at Es on 2m? In other words, what are ya' gonna use it for?
What do you expect of it? What's a "good" antenna for you, might not be
for someone else. It depends on your intended use. Some guys just wanna'
be LO-O-O-UD!!! But where? IF you expect any antenna to do all these
things well, on many bands, you'll never be satisfied 'cause that antenna
doesn't exist! There are many that make such claims, or are perceived
by many among us to offer that; but that is simply not reality. The
G5RV and its derivatives do a fair job on some bands; better on others.
But, thats the way it is!

Answering those questions will help you decide which antenna is for you.
If you haven't asked yourself those questions you'll never be able to make
a choice, or be satisfied with it if you do.

>ground is all that it took then a dummy load at 10000 feet would work great!

>Jeff

73's
Paul
WB2OYC
odonnellp@mar65.mar.ora.fda.gov
ar..

Date: Tue, 13 Jul 1993 22:16:05 GMT
From: pipex!uknet!mcsun!sunic!liuida!d91gerca@uunet.uu.net
Subject: NEED: Brittish wire gauge !
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I need a brittish wire gauge !
If anyone have it on a file, please post it to me !
73 and thank you in advance,
Gert E B Carlsson
d91gerca@und.ida.liu.se
(Linkoping Institute of Technology, Computer Science and Technology)

Date: 14 Jul 1993 02:29:00 -0600
From: agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!csn!stan!not-for-mail@ames.arpa
Subject: OK, What about Yaesu FT-411E vs. FT-415?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The prevailing wisdom seems to be that I should perhaps pass up the Alinco DJ-180T in favor of something like the Yaesu FT-411E. Looking in my trusty AES catalog I find the FT-415 to be about $40 more than the 411E, but the two radios seem about identical except the 415 is only 2w with the standard batt pack (vs. 2.5 for the 411) but seems to have a boatload of extra power saving features.

So, if you actually own one of these or just have looked at them, I'd love to hear from you via email (I'll summarize to the net), especially if you've had a chance to compare the two...

(For any of you coming in late, the radio will almost exclusively be used for storm chasing/spotting/SKYWARN-type things).

Thanks again in advance!!

--
| William Kucharski, Solbourne Computer, Inc. | Opinions expressed herein
| Internet: kucharsk@solbourne.com   Ham: N0OKQ | are MINE alone, NOT those
| Snail Mail: 1900 Pike Road, Longmont, CO 80501 | of Solbourne Computer, Inc.
| President, "Just the Ten of Us" Fan Club | "Dittos from Longmont, CO"

Date: 14 Jul 93 16:26:07 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Tips for learning the code
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The following is a random summary gleaned from INFO-HAMS over the past year. No attributions -- I didn't keep them (but all the major contributors are here I think!). Hope people find this useful.

The most important point: a positive attitude. You must KNOW that you are going to learn the code, even when you get dispondent. Otherwise you'll find it extra difficult.

Kevin Purcell N7WIM / G8UDP
a-kevinp@microsoft.com
Sit simplex, stulte!

** What is the best way to learn Morse Code?

This is becoming an increasingly common question as many "no-code" Technicians realize they can add more privileges to their license if they learn Morse Code. The following list of suggestions should be helpful in finding ways to approach the effort.

* Listen to code at a rate faster than you can copy.
* Participate in Novice-Roundup and/or Field Day. Practice whenever you get the chance!
* Avoid the "deciphering" plateau around 5 WPM and and character plateau at 10 WPM by listening to the fast Farnsworth-paced "beat" of each letter and the "beat" of common words. (See the question on Morse code speed for more information on Farnsworth pacing.)
* Practice to develop a "copy buffer" so you copy about 5 characters behind. (This is not easy but it's how the higher speeds are done.)
* Practice both with headphones and "open-air" copy as the code test may be in either format. (If you only practice one, you may fumble on the other.)
* Most of all, don't give up! Recognize when you reach plateaus and keep trying until you break through them.

---

5 - can count dits and dahs, and has memorized the CW table
9 - absolute maximum a human can ever reach without the CW ears (hearing `sound' and directly relating that to a letter, but rather hearing dits and dahs, doing mental table lookup and translating that to spoken/written letters)
13 - The point *just* before hearing words rather than just letters.
18 - throws away paddles because doesn't want to build up muscles anymore. Can copy anyone below this speed SOLID, hears cuagn sn, hw, fer, solid, shalom/god bless, good, john, joe,

don, harry, dick as words).
20 - *must* be hearing words, still ends up copying some words as a series of letters (copy of less than 7wpm, and around 15wpm is sketchy at times :-)
40 - ltrs? wht r thy? fer chrst saik spk nglsh

>I have been practicing CW about 15 min. a day here on my computer terminal.
>I seem to be stuck at 9 wpm. I practice at ~13 wpm. Every time I hit an
>e my brain just looses it. I don't have enough time to listen, write the
>"E" down, and by that time I've missed the next letter. What do I need to
>do?

Try copying faster code. Don't worry if you miss letters. You're
trying to break the habit of decrypting individual sound groups as
letters and develop the habit of hearing letters as complete sounds.
13 WPM is too slow for that transition for some people.

>Every time I hit an
>e my brain just looses it. I don't have enough time to listen, write the
>"E" down, and by that time I've missed the next letter. What do I need to
>do?

I had exactly this problem when I was going for 20wpm. "E", especially,
takes only one dit, but requires 4 strokes of the pencil to write. By
that time, the code had gone on, and left me in the dust. What I found
worked, was so simple that I was embarassed: instead of writing down "E"
(upper case, 4 strokes) I would write "e" (lower case, quick squiggle).
Likewise with "A/a". Sure, my copy looks funny, and I'm not forming my
letters the way the books tell you to, but so what? As long as I can
tell the difference between my "e" and my "C" and between my "a" and my
"O", I can figure out what I meant. Of course, for an exam, I would go
back and make sure the difference was obvious to the examiners who might
be checking for that elusive one minute of solid copy.

So, I would recommend that you experiment with the quickest way of
writing each character. It might just make the difference! Good luck.

Your case is very common and natural in learning code. There are 3 break
levels that we now of and thay manifest thamself like hiting brick wall.
You feel " stuck " no progres and confusion/depresion sinks in.
The levels are 7-9 wpm, 15-17 wpm and 23-25 wpm , after that it is clear
sailing up to 55 wpm.

The only way , that I know, was brute force.... you just continue and in
few days you will sudnely forget all about it. AS a matter of fact it is
not uncommon to find yourself coping 10 or 11 wpm.
As to the specific E case you are lucky, most of my students have problem
with C,Q,L,Y, so one way to practice specific caracter is to have additional
15 min. a day and listen to tape at high speed in your case 14/16 wpm and
write down ONLY tha caracters of interest purposly skipping the rest of msg.
in your case E and/or any other that you feel weak on.

>Try this: Stare into space (or maybe at some spot on your paper other
>than where you are writing) as you copy. Concentrate your mind on
>hearing and recognizing letters, while your hand writes them. Of course,
>your letters may go off the lines a bit, but who cares at this point?
>Anyhow, I found this helped me to copy behind.

I second this methodology. It may have something to do with the
barain not being able to handle well consecutively processing letters
into words while also processing the on-off-keyed thingies into letters.

By concentrating just on the letters, I seem to be able to copy faster;
it may work for you too. I am also less tempted to go back and correct
errors -- a fatal mistake, I find.

Sort of silly since it is words that you want to understand in the end,
but if it helps you pass the exam, what the heck.

Being severely near-sighted, I simply take off my glasses when I copy;
that way, I can keep the lines straight :-). Another method is to
use a keybord to copy and not look at the screen (worked well for me
until I started copying code faster than I could type :-) when you
are practicing.

Another thing: try writing smaller. You can form characters faster
that way. I find that when I write at a slant (sort of italics), I can
also write faster. And, don't form block alphabets. Use lower case
script writing. Afterall, historically, script writing was invented
so that the scribes could scribe faster.

> >Several people in this area, KD1NR included, were able to pass their Element
> >1A with brief studying for several days (slightly or no more than the time
> >required to study the 3A pool...)
>
> As usual with people who have a particular approach to life which they think

> God has personally passed on to them, you have jumped to a general conclusion
> from a few observations.
Not to continue fanning this flame, but it seems the "pot" is calling
the "kettle" black here.

You seem to make some good points here, but leap to some ill-founded
conclusions of your own. (As I am no doubt doing, even as I type1 ;^)

> 1) theory is easy for some people and not for others
> 2) code is easy for some people and not for others
Yes, this is how it seems to work. Now, how should YOU, with a CW learning
difficulty, address this issue, given that you seem to want to copy 13
or more wpm? Right and Left brain-ness isn't the drill here. What you
DO with your brain is...

> For 6 months, I have been studying the morse code. I work at least 1 hour
> per day in 30 min sessions.
I believe, and experience at teaching CW would bear me out, that 30
minutes at a stretch *TO LEARN* is too long. 4 15 or 6 10 minute
sessions would actually allow you to progress faster and become less
frustrated.

> I have the ARRL tapes, some other company tapes,
> morse by rythmn and self hypnosis tapes. I also attend a class that is also
> allowing me to practice a little.
Just a guess here, but I think you have four or more DIFFERENT tapes,
each with a slightly different sending speed and character spacing to
achieve the speed you are trying to copy. This means you are actually
trying to learn CW as four or more manifestations of language rather
than ONE. SLOW DOWN. STOP!!! Get a grip and go at this in the easiest
and best way to learn ONE language, not four or more!

You have SuperMorse, so I'd recommend you focus there. READ the doc...
it is quite good on what happens with "Farnsworth" character
development and will help you understand some of this approach.

Then, crank the character speed UP to about 23 wpm, and set the word
speed at about 7...always a little faster than you can copy solid.

Next, get yourself some graph paper to copy on...

Then, and this is the MOST difficult part, learn to forget and let go
when you miss a character. Can't write the character you heard? Skip
the box on teh graph paper and move on. NOBODY has to be perfect
copying Morse...the test only requires 70% comprehension, and if you
can let a character go, by playing "Vanna White" you can probably
figure out what you missed LATER -- do NOT try it when yo are copying!

Now that you have given yourself permission to not be perfect, and the session is only going to be 10 minutes long, there is even a chance you could make it fun... try short e-mail messages, fed to SuperMorse as files to send...Thought of the Day makes for great practice, and keeps things fun. Sure, if you have read it before, you may recognize the text as it is sent, but after a while it won't matter anyway.

Make this fun, because it can be (and is to some people)...
Personally, it took a long time (20 years of frustration and a few abortive attempts at 20wpm) before I finally let go of having to be perfect, and when I could be less than perfect, I passed!

Enjoy the CW... It is different, part of the romance, history and heritage of Ham Radio, and what separates us from people who can merely trade money for a license to yak...

> So, don't tell me how easy it is to learn the code and that some people you
> know did it after studying a couple of minutes. Great for those people!
And very irrelevent to the one person that counts.... you!

> I'm now a ham (as soon as the FCC does its part) and proud of it.
Congratulations! Welcome to the hobby.

> I intend
> to upgrade as soon as I can get past the code obstacle. It isn't easy but it
> is worth it.
The second half of that attitude statement will work for you. Treating teh Morse requirement as an obstacle rather than an opportunity will keep it so...

The thing that I have found most useful is to increase your wpm speed as soon as you start copying 50-60% of the text correctly. And then occasionally slow it back down to give yourself the satisfaction and encouragement of seeing your improvement.

Also I have found that when just learning the letters it was best just to do short sessions at a sitting so that you would not get discouraged. And once you have mastered the letters, numbers, and prosigns you can start doing longer sessions (20-30 minutes).

I am dyslexic I have worked on the code for 30 years with not much success. I got up to 5 wpm on Super Morse. Started working 15 meters and got it up to 13 went to 20 meters and finally passed my 20 wpm.

Learning code for me was very difficult. Actually using code is a lot
more fun to me than listing to a computer spew out code. CW is a
little frustrating at first but nobody is going kill you and eat you when you
ask for a repeat. Keep after it and it will get easier.

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #852
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